

TEXAS SESSION LAWS 2015

GENERAL AND SPECIAL Eighty-Fourth Legislature, Regular Session

INTERSTATE COOPERATION TO ADDRESS REGIONAL WATER ISSUES

CHAPTER 451

H.B. No. 163

AN ACT

relating to interstate cooperation to address regional water issues.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. The heading to Chapter 8, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 8. SOUTHWESTERN STATES WATER ~~[MULTI-STATE WATER RESOURCES PLANNING]~~ COMMISSION

SECTION 2. Section 8.001(1), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1) "Commission" means the *Southwestern States Water* ~~[Multi-State Water Resources Planning]~~ Commission.

SECTION 3. Section 8.011, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8.011. CREATION OF COMMISSION. The *Southwestern States Water* ~~[Multi-State Water Resources Planning]~~ Commission is created as an *advisory commission to the governor and the legislature* ~~[agency of the state]~~.

SECTION 4. Section 8.013, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8.013. COMMISSIONERS ~~[MEMBERS OF COMMISSION]~~; APPOINTMENT.

(a) The commission is composed of *three* ~~[seven]~~ commissioners as follows:

- (1) ~~[who are appointed by]~~ the governor or the governor's designee;
- (2) a member of the standing committee of the house of representatives that has jurisdiction over natural resources, appointed by the governor; and
- (3) a member of the standing committee ~~[with the advice and consent]~~ of the senate that has jurisdiction over water issues, appointed by the governor.

(b) The governor or the governor's designee shall act as the official representative of this state on the commission and shall exercise all powers and duties of this state as a

member of the commission ~~[make the appointments so that each member is from a different section of the state].~~

~~[(c) Three commissioners must be members of the general public, one commissioner must have a background in the field of higher education, one commissioner must have a background in private business, one commissioner must have a background in agriculture, and one commissioner must have a background in an energy-related field.]~~

SECTION 5. Section 8.015, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8.015. TERMS ~~[OF OFFICE]~~. (a) *The two appointed commissioners serve* ~~[Commissioners hold office for]~~ staggered terms of four ~~[six]~~ years, with the term ~~[terms]~~ of one appointed commissioner ~~[two or three commissioners]~~ expiring on February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

(b) Each appointed commissioner serves ~~[holds office]~~ until the commissioner's ~~[his]~~ successor is appointed ~~[and has qualified for office]~~.

(c) A ~~[If a]~~ vacancy in an appointed position on the commission ~~[occurs in the office of commissioner, the governor]~~ shall be filled ~~[appoint a successor to serve]~~ for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment.

SECTION 6. Section 8.016, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8.016. CHAIRMAN. The governor or the governor's designee shall serve ~~[designate one commissioner]~~ as chairman of the commission ~~[to serve at the will of the governor]~~.

SECTION 7. Section 8.017(c), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The chairman or two commissioners may call a special meeting at any time by giving notice to the other *commissioner* or commissioners.

SECTION 8. Section 8.019, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8.019. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ~~[STAFF]~~. The board shall provide *administrative* ~~[necessary staff and]~~ support to the commission to assist the commission in carrying out this chapter.

SECTION 9. Section 8.051, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8.051. INTERACTION WITH OTHER STATES. (a) In cooperation with representatives of neighboring states, the commission *may discuss* ~~[shall study]~~ the water needs of the region ~~[after the year 2000]~~.

(b) The commission *may* ~~[shall]~~ initiate and carry out discussions with representatives of neighboring states relating to the identification and development of sources and methods of augmenting water supplies on a regional basis after existing water supplies are fully committed.

SECTION 10. Section 8.052, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8.052. INTERACTION WITH MEXICO. The commission *may* ~~[shall contract and]~~ confer with the government of Mexico concerning water needs and development of sources of water supply.

SECTION 11. Section 8.056, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8.056. COMPACTS. The commission *may* ~~[shall]~~ contact and negotiate with other states regarding the need for establishing interstate compacts, addressing groundwater problems, needs, and supplies, if an aquifer underlies several states, and addressing other related subjects that would be beneficial to the states including the conservation and beneficial use of water.

SECTION 12. Sections 8.014, 8.018, and 8.053, Water Code, are repealed.

SECTION 13. (a) Promptly after this Act takes effect, the governor shall appoint the initial appointed members of the Southwestern States Water Commission under Chapter 8, Water Code, as amended by this Act.

(b) In appointing the initial appointed members of the commission, the governor shall appoint one person to a term expiring February 1, 2017, and one person to a term expiring February 1, 2019.

SECTION 14. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on April 16, 2015: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 163 on May 21, 2015: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 15, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

**REQUIRING CERTAIN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
EDUCATION TO POST INFORMATION REGARDING MENTAL
HEALTH RESOURCES ON THE INSTITUTION'S INTERNET
WEBSITE**

CHAPTER 452

H.B. No. 197

AN ACT

relating to requiring certain public institutions of higher education to post information regarding mental health resources on the institution's Internet website.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9193 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9193. REQUIRED POSTING OF MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES. (a) In this section, "local mental health authority" has the meaning assigned by Section 531.002, Health and Safety Code.

(b) This section applies only to a general academic teaching institution, medical and dental unit, public junior college, public state college, or public technical institute as those terms are defined by Section 61.003.

(c) Each institution to which this section applies shall create a web page on the institution's Internet website dedicated solely to information regarding the mental health resources available to students at the institution. The web page must include the address of the nearest local mental health authority.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, each public institution of higher education to which Section 51.9193, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies shall post on its Internet website the information required by that section.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on April 9, 2015: Yeas 140, Nays 3, 2 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 197 on May 21, 2015: Yeas 144, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 15, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.